

Do Your Part to Protect Westfield Drinking Water

Do you realize that household items used on a daily basis are contributing to the pollution of our drinking water? As citizens, we take for granted that our drinking water is safe and clean, and our water and air will always be available and always be protected. The fact is, the average household contains 3 to 10 gallons of hazardous wastes, and these items will ultimately pollute our drinking water.

I'm sure you're thinking... what could I have in my house that could possibly pollute my community's drinking water? Everyday products such as paints, fertilizers, polishes, bathroom cleaners, and even batteries can be classified as hazardous wastes. The list goes on and on.

There are many things we can do to help prevent pollutants from seeping into our water systems. Most importantly, read labels for proper disposal and follow directions. If you must use a product that is considered a hazardous waste, improper disposal of that product into the water stream will lead to pollution.

What to look for on the product label – A guide for safe disposal



FAUCET SYMBOL: The faucet symbol indicates that the product can be poured down the drain with plenty of water. (May be different if you have a septic tank)

Examples of products that can be poured down the drain:

Ammonia based cleaners, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, bathroom cleaners, lotions, disinfectants, and windshield washer solutions.



GARBAGE SYMBOL: A garbage symbol indicated that the product can be tossed in the trash.

Examples of products that can be tossed in the trash:

Auto body filters, latex liquid paint, and shoe polish

SAVE

SAVE SYMBOL: The save symbol indicates that you should save the product until you hand it to a licensed hazardous waste contractor.

Examples of products that need to be handed to a licensed hazardous waste contractor:

Full aerosol cans, floor care products, furniture polish, nail polish and remover, auto batteries, diesel fuel, paint thinner, oil based paint, auto paint, primer, turpentine, insecticide, weed killer and lighter fluid.



RECYCLE SYMBOL: The recycle symbol indicated that the product can be recycled.

There are many more items that can be added to the example lists so be sure to check your labels very carefully.

Other things you can do to prevent water pollution:

- Empty cleaning buckets into sinks or toilets, not outside sewers.
- Use non-toxic and biodegradable cleaners.
- Conserve water.
- Prevent any trash, cleaning or soapy materials from running down the sewer drain.
- Let your lawn or garden grow naturally.
- Fix oil leaks in your car.

- Give away leftover materials – don't throw it away.

These small measures can make a huge impact on your water and ultimately our environment. Learn more about proper disposal of your household hazardous waste by calling the Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center at 317-776-4005.